

REMARKS

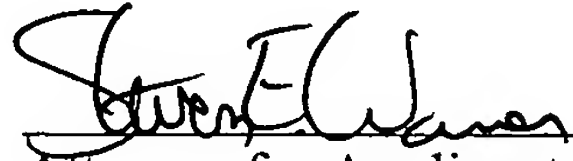
Applicants requests favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks

Claims 25-27 and 30-40 are presented for consideration. Claim 25 is the sole independent claim. Claims 28 and 29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 25 has been amended to clarify features of the subject invention, while claims 35-40 have been added to recite additional features of the subject invention. Support for these changes and these claims can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 25-34 were previously allowed in this application. Applicants submit that the foregoing changes to claim 25 do not substantively affect the allowability of this claim. In addition to claims 25-27 and 30-34 being allowable, Applicants submits that claims 35-40 patentably define additional features of the projection exposure apparatus of the present invention. Accordingly, the instant application should be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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